Delicensed Drugs

629. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Ministry Damns Local Drug Units' which appeared in the 'Blitz' of the 13th July, 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the 82 drugs which were delicensed are the same based on priority list except three drugs of Cephalosphorin group;

(c) if so, how Ampicilin Trihydrate and other semi-synthetic Penicillines have been included in the list when permission for new capacity and expansion for these items was banned during the period ending 30th April 1985 on account of surplus production and excess capacity established for these drugs.

(d) what were the reasons for sudden reversal; and

(e) what are the names of the units both in organised and small scale sector, producing Ampicillin Trihydrate along with their installed and licensed production during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) My Ministry has seen Press report to the effect.

(b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) To the extent information is available, details of units in the organised sector producing Ampicillin alongwith their licensed capacity and production for the last three years is furnished below:—

(*In tonnes*)

Name of the Unit (Organised Sector)	Registered Licensed capacity (M.T.)	Production		
		1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
1. I. D. P. L.	35·00	1·00	0·26	3·72
2. H. A. L.	35·00	14·18	8·38	13·56
3. Alembic	5·00	2·42	2·48	1·65
4. Cadila Labs.	20·00	..	0·29	13·60
5. Lyphin Chem.	12·00	..	..	6·45
6. Ranbaxy Labs.	55·50	49·89	45·03	65·71
TOTAL :	162·50	62·49	56·44	104·69

Shortage of Sodaash

630. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while addressing the second meeting of the high-power Committee on Soda Ash in Delhi in June, 1985 he expressed concern over instances of indigenous manufacturers of Soda Ash raising their prices without justification;

(b) if so, the names of the manufacturers of Soda Ash in the country and how many times each one of

them has increased the prices of Soda Ash during the last two years;

(e) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of Soda Ash and the small consumers cannot get this commodity for their use; and

(d) if so, what action Government are taking for reviewing the demand and supply position of Soda Ash with a view to mitigating the situation of shortage?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The requisite information is as under:

S. No.	Name of the manufacturers	Price increased during the last 2 years i.e. 1983-84 and 1984-85—No. of times.
1	Dhrangadhra Chemical Works Limited	9
2	Hari Fertilizers Limited	5
3	Punjab National Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited	4 (Up to 21-2-85)
4	Saurashtra Chemicals	8
5	Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited	11
6	Tata Chemicals Limited	4

(c) and (d) The Standing Committee on Soda Ash in its meeting held on 14-6-1985 has reviewed the demand and supply position of Soda Ash in the country during 1985-86. It has been felt that due to spurt in demand, there will be some gap between the demand and indigenous production. Government had already reduced the basic import duty on Soda Ash to enable the actual users to import Soda Ash, which is under Open General Licence (OGL), at reasonable price. Recently, Govt. have also issued detailed guidelines on distribution of Soda Ash by the manufacturers to various consumers.

Bhopal Gas Victims

631. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of persons still suffering as a result of the gas leakage in Bhopal;

(b) the number of persons who have been permanently physically handicapped; and

(c) the measures that have so far been taken to provide relief to them and their dependents?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) A very large number of persons were affected as a result of the gas leakage. Detailed surveys have been initiated by the State Govt. to ascertain the details in respect of each such victim and the precise numbers along with details in respect of each will be known only on the completion of these surveys.

(c) Comprehensive measures on a massive scale have been undertaken by the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. These include, *inter alia*, special medical facilities, involving creation of several new medical facilities for follow-up treatment of all the victims, free distribution of food-grains to all those living in the affected area, providing of assistance for suitable alternative occupations for the victims, taking up of special projects for looking after the health, nutrition and related needs for pregnant and lactating mothers.

Ex-gratia relief of Rs. 10,000 is being given to the families of each deceased person, and Rs. 1,500 to affected families having income less than Rs. 500. According to information received from the State Govt., in June, 1985, of